

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Flintville Elementary
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Flintville, TN 37335
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Dream Project – Land and Water Conservation

The Member

Flintville Elementary School is currently a K-8 grade school of 480 students with 39 teachers and a support staff of 27. We have just completed our first year in our new building after a long period of being "under construction." We are a Title I school with 50% of our student body parents grossing below poverty level income. Our focus is to develop caring, competent young adults ready to interface with a multi-cultural consolidated high school. They should leave our facility aware of global environmental issues with well-established habits for correcting local problems of waste reduction and littering, and have an awakening for land, water, air, and energy conservation.

The Story

At the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year, we were faced with a campus of mud, red dirt, and un-level grounds. Although our new building was finished, there were no funds allocated for storm water control, landscaping, and beautification. There was no playground area, no attractive welcoming area, nor any shade trees. A task force committee was formed to develop a plan we called the "Dream Project".

We had looked forward to having beautiful campus grounds; however, erosion and storm water control needed addressing before any beautification could take place. The first grass seeding by the contractors did not produce enough grass cover. Therefore, a second and third planting was necessary. Erosion control fabric was used to prevent the loss of topsoil and seeds. An asphalt driveway and parking area were constructed with downward slopes leading to a storm drain that empties into a small creek on the outer edge of campus. To ensure there would be no flooding in the garden areas, gutter drains were routed to the storm water system.

The Dream Project included the "Liberty Garden", concrete pads and picnic tables, the Bobcat mailbox and monument marker, flowerpots at the school entrance, landscaping along the front of the building, a 550-foot strip along the main road in front of the

school, and accent flowerbeds. The Booster Club sold memorial bricks for the flag display. We planted annuals, perennials, shrubs, crape myrtles, grasses, pink dogwoods, cherry trees, and "old glory" red maple trees with the help of our Master Gardener Brad Jean, boy scouts, girl scouts, parents, teachers, and CLEAN Club members. Funds were donated from Regions Bank, First National Bank of Pulaski, Wal-Mart, CLEAN, Beta Club, Band, and the school General Fund.

The Success

Although this was a daunting project, the community and school came together both financially and physically and were able to successfully complete our goals. Although the project has taken approximately a year and a half to complete, the beauty and pride it generates, as well as satisfaction with the efficient control of erosion and storm water, are well worth the financial and physical challenges endured. We are also proud to have won a TDEC K-12 Environmental Awareness Award this year, recognizing this project as well as our school's recycling efforts.



The Pollution Prevented

We no longer have a sea of red mud or a stream flowing through our campus. Sediment will not be transported to Mulepen Creek or the Flint River from our grounds. Students, faculty, and visitors are greeted with an attractive campus that says "Flintville Elementary School takes pride in beautification and conservation of land and water."

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